

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 22nd August 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| Weekly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Banganivasi" ... | Calcutta | 5,000 | | Temporarily discontinued from May, 1896. |
| 2 | "Bangavasi" ... | Ditto | 20,000 | 15th August, 1896. | |
| 3 | "Hitaishi" ... | Ditto | 800 | 18th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Hitavadi" ... | Ditto | About 4,000 | 14th ditto. | |
| 5 | "Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ... | Ditto | 2,500 | 15th ditto. | |
| 6 | "Navayuga" ... | Ditto | | 15th ditto. | |
| 7 | "Sahachar" ... | Ditto | About 500 | 12th ditto. | |
| 8 | "Samay" ... | Ditto | 3,000 | 14th ditto. | |
| 9 | "Sanjivani" ... | Ditto | 3,000 | 15th ditto. | |
| 10 | "Som Prakash" ... | Ditto | 800 | 17th ditto. | |
| Daily. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Banga Vidya Prakashika" | Ditto | About 350 | 17th, 18th and 19th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." | Ditto | 1,000 | 20th, 21st and 28th July and 16th to 19th August, 1896. | |
| 3 | "Samvad Frabhakar" ... | Ditto | 1,250 | 17th August, 1896. | |
| 4 | "Samvad Purnachandrodaya" | Ditto | 200 | 17th to 20th August, 1896. | |
| 5 | "Sulabh Dainik" ... | Ditto | Read by 3,000 | 14th, 15th, 18th and 19th August, 1896. | |
| HINDI. | | | | | |
| Weekly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bharat Mitra" ... | Ditto | 2,000 | 13th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Hindi Bangavasi" ... | Ditto | 10,000 | 17th ditto. | |
| Daily. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Dainik Bharat Mitra" ... | Ditto | 5,000 | | |
| PERSIAN. | | | | | |
| Weekly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Hublul Mateen" ... | Ditto | | 11th August, 1896. | |
| URDU. | | | | | |
| Weekly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." | Ditto | 310 | 13th ditto | |
| 2 | "General and Gauhariasfi" | Ditto | 330 | 16th ditto. | |
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| BURDWAN DIVISION. | | | | | |
| Fortnightly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bankura Darpan" ... | Bankura | 450 | 16th August 1896. | |
| 2 | "Ulubaria Darpan" ... | Ulubaria | 700 | | |
| Weekly. | | | | | |
| 1 | "Burdwan Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | About 250 | 11th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Chinsura Vartavaha" ... | Chinsura | 550 | 16th ditto. | |
| 3 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | 1,145 | 14th ditto. | |

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | PRESIDENCY DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Ghosak" ... | Khulna ... | 350 | | |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Murshidabad Hitaishi" ... | Murshidabad ... | 826 | 12th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ... | Berhampore ... | 200 | 4th and 17th July, 1896. | |
| 3 | "Pratihar" ... | Ditto ... | 603 | 14th August, 1896. | |
| | URIYA. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | ORISSA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Brahma" ... | Cuttack ... | 160 | | |
| 2 | "Indradhanu" ... | Ditto ... | | | |
| 3 | "Shikshabandhu" ... | Ditto ... | | | |
| 4 | "Utkalprabha" ... | Mayurbhanj ... | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Sambalpur Hitaishini" ... | Bamra in the Central Provinces. | | 24th June, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Samvad Vahika" ... | Balasore ... | 190 | 18th and 25th June, 1896. | |
| 3 | "Uriya and Navasamvad" ... | Ditto ... | 309 | 17th and 24th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Utkal Dipika" ... | Cuttack ... | 480 | 20th and 27th ditto. | |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | PATNA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Bihar Bandhu" ... | Bankipur ... | 500 | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Aryavarta" ... | Dinapur ... | 1,000 | 8th and 15th August, 1896. | |
| | URDU. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ... | Bankipur ... | 500 | 13th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Gaya Punch" ... | Gaya ... | 400 | 10th ditto. | |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | RAJSHAHI DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Hindu Ranjika" ... | Boalia, Rajshahi ... | 195 | 12th August, 1896. | |
| 2 | "Rangpur Dikprakash" ... | Kakina, Rangpur ... | 180 | 13th ditto. | |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." | Darjeeling ... | 500 | | |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | DACCA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Kasipur Nivasi" ... | Kasipur, Barisal ... | 244 | 13th August, 1896. | |

Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.

It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| | BENGALI—coal. | DACCA DIVISION— | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | <i>conctd.</i> | | | |
| 1 | "Charn Mihir" ... | Mymensingh ... | 900 | | |
| 2 | "Dacca Prakash" ... | Dacca ... | 2,400 | 16th August, 1896. | |
| 3 | "Saraswat Patra" ... | Do. ... | About 440 | 15th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Vikrampur" ... | Lauhajanga, Dacca ... | 240 | 13th ditto. | |
| | ENGLISH AND BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Dacca Gazette" ... | Dacca ... | 500 | 17th August, 1896. | |
| | BENGALI. | CHITTAGONG DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Tripura Prakash" ... | Comilla ... | 700 | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Sansodhini" ... | Chittagong ... | 120 | 19th and 26th June and 10th, 17th and 31st July 1896. | |
| | BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | ASSAM. | | | |
| 1 | "Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" | Sylhet ... | | Sravan, 1st fortnight, 1303 B.S. | |

II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a).—Police.

THE *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 12th August says that some days ago one Manindra Chandra Datta, a student of the fourth year class of the Berhampore College, was riding past the tennis ground of the Europeans.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 12th, 1896.

The District Superintendent of Police, the District Magistrate, and the District Judge were on the ground at the time, and the first of these gentlemen called out to Manindra and asked him why he was riding that way, when he had been, on a previous occasion, told not to do so. Manindra said that he knew nothing of the prohibition which might have been addressed with reference to some one else. On this the District Superintendent used objectionable language to him. On the 10th August last, a charge was brought against Manindra for rash riding, and the District Superintendent himself and his *chaprasi* having deposed against the accused, the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Sasisekhar Datta, fined him Rs. 20. The District Superintendent unhesitatingly stated before the Deputy Magistrate that he had, on several previous occasions, prohibited the accused from riding so rashly, though his prohibition had, as a matter of fact, been addressed to another boy who rode the same horse.

2. The *Vikrampur* of the 13th August draws the attention of the authorities to the prevalence of *badmashes* in Vikrampur in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district. Some time ago an impostor cheated a woman of Bolapara of some twenty rupees, by first securing her confidence by depositing with her small sums of money. A correspondent writing from Bejgaon also reports a case in which some female members of a family in Nayakandi were taken away from home by an impostor, who pretended to be a relation of the family. The man certainly intended to make away with the jewellery of the ladies. But fortunately the turning up of a male member of the family foiled his plan, and he was content to escape with only two pairs of cloth.

VIKRAMPUR,
Aug. 13th, 1896.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th August says that the system of cooly recruitment is a prolific source of misery in this country. The efforts which Government is making for its reformation are utterly inadequate for the purpose. A correspondent informs the paper that he noticed two young cooly women of 16 or 17 on board the "Marwari", whom he suspected to be of respectable birth. On enquiry, his suspicion proved true. The real name of one of the women is Jnanada, and she is the daughter of a Brahman named Isvar Mukharji, a resident of Jaypur in the Bankura district. The other woman's real name is Sasimukhi, and her father, Shibu Pal, and her uncle, Hriday Pal, are both residents of Vishnupur in the same district. The former has been registered under the false name of Nichu, and as the daughter of Charu, and both were going to serve as coolies in the Jaroka tea-garden in the Sibsagar district.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1896.

4. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 15th August contradicts the statement made in a recent issue of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* that the Muharram quarrel in Old Malda was caused by the fault of the Musalmans, who proposed to sacrifice a cow near a Hindu temple, and that riot and bloodshed was averted, only by the fortunate arrival in the place of Babu Jadub Chandra Deb, District Superintendent of Police. The writer re-iterates his charge against the Hindu District Superintendent, whom he holds solely responsible for exciting the quarrel.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

5. The same paper publishes a letter from Abdul Barik *alias* Bisu Kaivarta, who has been fraudulently sent up as a cooly, written to his father, in which he entreats him to take steps for his release (see Report on Native Papers for 18th April, paragraph 5). The cooly's address, as given in this letter, is Rammuria Baliyan garden, post-office Bhelua garden, district Dibrugarh. The letter, however, bears the post-mark 'Chabna'. The editor requests the Assam Government to grant Abdul Barik his liberty, and adequately punish the man who sent him up as a cooly, notwithstanding the provision of the law that no Musalman shall be engaged as a cooly.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,

MIHIR-O SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

6. Some residents of Old Malda, writing in the same paper, make the following observations in connection with the Muharram quarrel case in that place:—

(1) The charges against the Musalmans under sections 295 and 511, have been found by the Magistrate to be untenable. But no decision has yet been arrived at, in regard to the charge under section 298 framed on the report of the District Superintendent that the Musalmans brandished a knife. The police offered got-up evidence in support of this charge; but how could that evidence or the District Superintendent's report be believed, when everything else the District Superintendent said was found to be false? Besides, a charge under section 298 could not lie, so long as the knife was not actually applied to the cow's throat. The Magistrate has probably been convinced of the innocence of the Musalmans, and has therefore told the parties to compound their case. The Musalmans are ready to come to an agreement with the Hindus, provided the Hindus agree to their carrying on their religious observances, in places which have all along been used for the purpose. But the Hindus refuse to come to an agreement unless the Musalmans give an undertaking to refrain from cow-slaughter altogether. In this unreasonable demand, the Hindus have the secret support of the police Sub-Inspector, a disciple of the District Superintendent.

(2) An emissary of the *Gorakshani sabha* is openly instigating the Hindus and has offered them one thousand rupees to meet the cost of litigation.

(3) A certain Commissioner of the Old Malda Municipality is behaving very improperly towards the Musalmans.

(4) If it is true that, as the *Hitavadi* newspaper says, the Government has come to the conclusion that there was nothing wrong in the conduct of the District Superintendent, how did the Government come to that conclusion?

(5) A Musalman resident of Chanchal, within the jurisdiction of the Kharba thana, was oppressed by his zamindar for slaughtering a cow for the purpose of feasting his relatives.

The Magistrate, observes the editor, has done wisely by requesting the parties to make up their quarrel. An amicable settlement of the affair is the only means of preventing quarrels in future, which cannot be done by punishing the Musalmans on this occasion. The Magistrate should also fix the places where the Musalmans should be permitted, in future, to slaughter cows.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

7. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's remark that murder in Backergunge could not be stamped out, without the co-operation of the local public, the *Sanjivani* of the 15th August observes that nothing could be truer than this observation. What can the executive do if the people themselves protect and screen the *badmashes*? The zamindars, if they are so disposed, can keep the criminal element under proper control. The Government has suppressed *thuggee*, and *bargi* oppression. Can it not suppress murder in Backergunge? The Government should take special measures and appoint special police to stamp out murder in Backergunge, as it did to stamp out *thuggee* and dacoity.

SANJIVANI.

8. The same paper has the following, with reference to the Government's reply to the interpellation regarding violence to female chastity in the mufassal:—

Violence to women in Bengal.

Not only in the Mymensingh, but in every other district in East Bengal, violence to female modesty is growing more and more prevalent. In West Bengal, too, rape cases are pretty frequent in some of the districts in the Presidency division. On the occasion of the last Ashtami Snan festival, Musalman *badmashes* committed unspeakable brutality on female pilgrims at Langal-bandh in the Dacca district. In Alipore, in the 24-Parganas district, such offences are committed within a stone's throw of Belvedere. We cannot therefore understand how Mr. Risley could say that such offences were a matter of rare occurrence. The Government has ordered that trustworthy police-officers should be entrusted with the task of inquiring into such offences. But how many trustworthy officers are there in the Police Department? We expected that, at least, the Sub-Inspectors, recruited under the new system, would prove good and trustworthy officers. But they too have disappointed us, and have strengthened our unfavourable impression about the Bengal police. There could be nothing truer than the fact that Musalman *badmashes* have, so to speak, brought about a reign of terror in the mufassal, and that the honour of men and the chastity of

women are in jeopardy. The mufassal people have been thrown into consternation. But the oppressed and the injured pocket their insult and injury in silence, fearing lest the *badmashes* should ruin them if they try to bring them to justice. Mr. Risley is not evidently acquainted with the true state of things. We have exaggerated nothing, and it is our firm conviction that there will be anarchy in the country, if the Government does not take speedy steps to put down the prevailing lawlessness.

9. Sri Gopal Rai of Kusumba, a village in the Banka subdivision of the Bhagalpur district, writes as follows in the same paper:—

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

On my way to Puri I had lately to halt near Barhgorha, a village in the Bankura district. Learning that I could get food in the village, I went there, and was searching for the house of a gentleman, who I learnt was in the habit of entertaining strangers, when I was accosted by two constables who took me to the thana, on the plea that every stranger was required to write his name and address in the thana book. At the thana I was made to wait up to 7 P. M., when I was called a thief, and told that my person was to be searched. On my protesting against this unlawful conduct, I was foully abused and badly beaten. My person was searched and five rupees and nine four-anna bits were discovered thereon. The nine four-anna bits were returned to me, but the police misappropriated the five rupees and a nut-cracker which was in my possession. I was kept confined the whole night. I was about to go to Bankura to seek remedy, but was advised to seek the protection of one Mohar Mandal of the locality, who sent a man to the Barhgorha police-station to lodge my complaint. The police officer was not found, and not being able to wait, I started for Puri. The incident related above took place on the 14th June last.

On my way back from Puri I went to Bishunpur, a subdivision of the Bankura district. I was going to verbally lodge my complaint to the Sub-divisional Officer, but the court peons prevented me from so doing.

10. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 19th August says, that though the notice of the Calcutta police has been repeatedly drawn to the prevalence of *gundas* in the town, it has done

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 19th, 1896.

nothing to repress the nuisance. There is a rendezvous of *gundas* near the grogshop in the Nimtolla barracks, probably well-known to the police. People say that the police does not arrest these *gundas*, because it shares their spoils. Sir John Lambert will not be able to free the town of these pests, unless for a time he orders the arrest of every gathering of men, who may be found loitering about the streets after 10 P.M.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. The *Sansodhini* of the 31st July makes the following complaints against the Chittagong land-acquisition office:—

Complaints against the land-acquisition office in Chittagong.

SANSODHINI,
July 31st, 1896.

(1) Though a large number of land-acquisition cases were disposed of in January last, the claimants did not get their compensations up to the 22nd July last.

(2) No replies are given to applications made, in due form, for information as to the values which have been awarded for particular lands.

(3) Compensations have been paid in several cases, previous to the publication of the notice of awards required by section 11 of the Land-Acquisition Act. This has resulted in the payment of compensations to wrong parties. And the authorities want to conceal their mistakes by refusing to give information, as mentioned above, so that the lapse of a period of six months may make it impossible for the injured parties to obtain any remedy, as no appeal will lie after that period. The manager of Babu Amar Chand Kundu made an objection on the ground that compensations for some trees belonging to him were paid before notice of award had been given. The Land-Acquisition Deputy Collector, Nityananda Babu, at first promised to set matters right, but now he is said to have told the manager to realize the money from the man to whom it was paid.

(4) No notice of acquisition has, in many cases, been given to the Collector. Many acquired lands have, therefore, been sold by auction for arrears of land-revenue.

(5) Has the Deputy Collector made any enquiry into the charges which were brought against his office?

AL PUNCH,
Aug. 13th, 1896.

12. *Al Punch* of the 13th August says that some ten years ago a Subordinate Judge was posted to Monghyr as an experimental measure. It has been shown, by facts and figures, that a Subordinate Judge's Court at Monghyr

The question of removing the Monghyr Subordinate Judge's Court to Bhagalpur.

has not only proved a boon to the Monghyr people, but has been also the means of saving to Government about one thousand rupees per annum. Under the circumstances, it is a wonder that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, at the request of a few pleaders of Bhagalpur who are actuated more by selfish motives than by any patriotic considerations, should have promised to give his consideration to the proposal to remove that Court to Bhagalpur. If it is argued that the location of the Courts in Monghyr and Bhagalpur in one place will promote administrative convenience, it may be asked if the convenience of the administration would not be best served by locating all the Civil Courts in the province at Calcutta. But would Government ever accede to such a proposal?

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Aug. 13th, 1896.

13. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 13th August accuses the High Court Judges of Calcutta of partiality for rejecting the motion made by the Musalmans of Giridi in Hazaribagh, against the discharge of

The High Court's partiality to the Hindus.

certain Hindus, who were alleged to have been implicated in a cow-killing case, and for granting a similar motion made by the Hindus of another place against the conviction of certain Hindus.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th August has the following:—

Babu Bansidhar Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Birbhum.

Many Englishmen are in the habit of saying that native papers, while so ready to criticize the conduct of English officers, never refer to even the most unjustifiable proceedings of officers of their own nationality. Every impartial person must admit that this charge is utterly unfounded. We, for ourselves, expose official wrong-doing, without any reference to creed or colour. We make no distinction of black and white. On this principle, we will speak to-day of a Bengali Deputy Magistrate.

The Deputy Magistrate we refer to is Babu Bansidhar Roy, who is, at present, stationed at Birbhum. The private character of that officer is not the subject of our consideration. We will only furnish proofs of his judicial obtuseness and arbitrary conduct.

One Kailas Chandra Saha, a resident of Tantipara within the Soori thana, complained before the then Deputy Magistrate, Babu Atalbihari Roy, that his neighbour, Gangadhar Sonar had abducted his wife, Elokeshi. Atal Babu issued a summons for the apprehension of Elokeshi. As no trace of her, however, could then be found, Kailas withdrew his case, on the understanding that he would be able to re-institute it as soon as Elokeshi was found.

Kailas having come to know, a few days after, that Gangadhar was publicly cohabiting with Elokeshi in his house, he re-instituted his suit. The District Magistrate ordered Babu Satyataran Mukherji to investigate the case, and on receiving a report from him, sent the case to the Court of Babu Bansidhar for disposal.

Kailas says that he attended with his witnesses on every day that was fixed for the hearing of his case, but the Deputy Magistrate repeatedly asked him to compound it. The case was not, however, compounded. In the course of the trial, Elokeshi, one day, declared from the dock crying that Kailas had beaten her severely, and showed marks of beating. The plaintive cries of a woman and marks of beating on her delicate person are enough to melt even the hardest heart. What wonder, then, that Bansi Babu should be deeply moved? He forthwith made Kailas ascend the dock, and enlarged him on a bail of Rs. 50.

Kailas had instituted a suit to recover his wife, and to revenge the disgrace he had suffered. But as ill-luck and the present evil days would have it, he was himself prosecuted. He was quite taken aback by this bolt from the blue, and had to remain confined in Court for half-an-hour, before he could furnish the required bail.

Elokesi's uncle, Dasaratha, is very thick and thin with her paramour Gangadhar. This man had, it is said, instituted some suits against Kailas, in concert with Gangadhar. And yet the Deputy Magistrate placed Elokesi under the custody of this very man. Kailas protested that this was tantamount to placing Elokesi under Gangadhar's custody, and asked for a copy of the Deputy Magistrate's order with a view to appeal against it in the Court of the District Magistrate. But the Deputy Magistrate refused to grant a copy.

This was not all. The Deputy Magistrate granted Elokesi summons against Kailas on a charge of assault, free of cost. Can anybody say why the Deputy Magistrate was so kind to Elokesi?

What follows will appear from the following petition, which Kailas has made to the District Magistrate:—

My wife's case was submitted to the late District Magistrate, Mr. Stevens. He recorded on the said deposition a remark to the effect, that the said Deputy Magistrate was not competent to take cognisance of any case, on his own authority. To know what order was passed by him that day, I applied for copies of my deposition as complainant, the order of the Deputy Magistrate as well as the Sahib's order; but the said application for copies was rejected, on the ground that no such papers were in the record. The said case was to have been heard the day before yesterday. I having attempted twice or thrice to appear before him, he had me turned out by the neck by his *chaprasi*. For that reason I filed a petition, and appeared before your Worship. Your Worship sent me with the petition and a constable to the said *hujur bahadur* for an order on the petition. I was standing there, when the said *hujur bahadur* abused me saying "sala, *haramjad*, why are you standing there?" and made use of various indecent terms, and ordered that I should be turned out. In accordance with that order his *chaprasi* removed me to a distance of 30 cubits, pushing me and striking me with his clenched fist. Incarnation of justice! I am a very poor and helpless person. Afflicted with grievous oppression, I seek your Worship's protection. Yesterday I submitted a petition of complaint to your Worship to the said effect. But when my deposition was taken I could not say everything, nor mention at all that the said *hujur bahadur* had most illegally detained me on the 10th July. For this reason the said petition was dismissed. Many respectable persons are witnesses of the unjust oppressions referred to. I pray that orders may be passed for the taking of evidence and a trial of this case. Dated the 24th July, 1896.

Kailas is really poor and helpless, and we pray that the matters stated in his petition may be carefully enquired into. We hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will not fail to enquire into the matter. If Bansidhar Babu is guilty, he should be taught a lesson.

15. The same paper says that, while the competitive system is being gradually adopted for selecting officers for every department of the public service, Munsifs still continue to be selected on the old and objectionable nomination system. The appointment of Munsifs rests, theoretically, with the President of the English Committee; but as that functionary delegates, from a love of ease, his functions to the Registrar of the Appellate side, the appointment of Munsifs rests, virtually, with the latter officer. Mr. Carnduff appointed Munsifs on no recognized principle that one could discover, but simply according to his whim and caprice. By some rules laid down in 1894, the High Court has indeed prescribed the qualifications, which are required of candidates for Munsifships, but the selection of candidates rests, as before, with the Registrar. Of the 200 qualified candidates who applied for enrolment after the publication of the rules made in 1894, only six were considered eligible by Mr. Carnduff. Mr. Carnduff, however, subsequently, for reasons best known to himself, selected some of those whom he had at first rejected. Priority in the matter of appointment is also found to depend solely upon the caprice of the Registrar. Thus, those who will soon pass the age-limit, insisted upon in the Service, are set aside in favour of younger men, and the result is that those so set aside lose, once for all, all chance of admission into the Service. The public are therefore dissatisfied with the present system. The present abuses will not cease so long as the competitive system is not introduced. Mr. Carnduff once objected to the competitive system,

The appointment of Munsifs.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

on the ground that it would not supply men at any moment, which was often required by the exigencies of the Service. But this difficulty can be met by appointing the men who have acquitted themselves in the examination next best to those who were first selected. This practice is sometimes followed in recruiting Deputy Magistrates and even Civilians.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

16. The same paper learns from a Krishnagar correspondent, that on the 28th July last the District Magistrate, Mr. Garrett, sent for the Deputy Magistrate, Pandit Jogendranath Vidyabhushan, and rebuked him for acquitting the majority of accused persons, and for trying them on charges lighter than those originally preferred. The Magistrate also threatened to report against Jogendra Babu if he did not mend his ways. Unterrified by this, Jogendra Babu replied that he acted in the way that was warranted by the evidence before him, and that he could not follow any other course. The editor remarks that fondness for conviction has become a disease with many Magistrates, but he cannot readily bring himself to believe that Mr. Garrett, too, is suffering from that disease. The public will be satisfied if the Lieutenant-Governor enquires into the matter.

HITAVADI.

17. The same paper says that Mr. Gill, Sessions Judge of Cawnpore, has sentenced to death 13 persons for being implicated in an affray in which two persons were killed. An objectionable sentence. Mr. Gill could not have passed a sentence like this, if he had set the least value on native lives. According to the law, the man or men only are liable to capital punishment, whose blow proved mortal. Will Mr. Gill maintain that all the thirteen persons, whom he has sentenced to death, gave blows which proved mortal? Even if such was the case, it is hardly justifiable to hang thirteen persons in a single case. It is to be hoped that Government or the High Court will interfere, and prevent the sentence from being executed.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

18. Commenting on the Government's reply to the interpellation regarding Mr. Morshead, the *Sanjivani* of the 15th August observes that the reply is not satisfactory. The fusion of the judicial and executive functions, and the consequent executive encroachment upon judicial independence are a fruitful source of oppression and injustice. There are many Magistrates, who, like Mr. Morshead, can be held responsible for miscarriage of justice. Only the High Court has the right to interfere in the administration of justice by the lower Courts, but practically many Magistrates are led by the police to interfere with their independence. This may be a blunder on the part of the Magistrates. But it is a fatal blunder on their part. It is a pity that the Lieutenant-Governor refused to take special steps to prevent the commission of what he called solitary blunders.

BANGAVASI
Aug. 15th, 1896.

19. One, Jonay Shaikh, was convicted of the murder of his wife and child by the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh and sentenced to death. The Calcutta High Court commuted the death sentence to one of transportation for life, considering that the prisoner had committed the murder on suspicion of his wife's fidelity. Referring to this case the *Bangavasi* of the 15th August observes that the people of this country are maddened at the sight of their wives' unchastity. At that time they lose both sense and self-control. It cannot be said how far chastity is valued in Europe, but it is quite clear that European Judges and Magistrates cannot, and do not, understand how strongly the Indian people feel, when they discover the infidelity of their wives. This is the reason why the administration of justice in such cases does not satisfy the people, and hurts their feelings. This is the disadvantage of the ruler and the ruled not being natives of the same country. If the Judges and Magistrates in this country consult the feelings of the people in administering justice, no one can find fault with their decisions.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 17th, 1896.

A charge of corruption against the amla in the Dacca Sub-Registry office.

20. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 17th August complains that the amla in the local Sub-Registry office do not return documents without levying a gratification of four to six annas on each document.

21. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th August thus comments on the decision of the Allahabad High Court in the Burdis case:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 18th, 1896.

The rape case in the Allahabad High Court.

The accused was tried by a European Judge with the help of nine jurors, of whom four were natives. The accused admitted co-habitation with the complainant, but denied that it was against her will. The four native jurors held the accused guilty of an attempt at rape, but the five European jurors found him not guilty on all the counts. The defence was, that the complainant gave her consent for the consideration of a few annas. But the complainant is not a prostitute. The Judge not only accepted the plea of the defence, but even went so far as to slander native women in general. "Native girls," observed His Lordship, "often give their consent for a small consideration, but when they are caught by relatives and friends engaged in immoral acts, they often raise a hue and cry, and give out that they have been forcibly ravished." This is, indeed, justice with a vengeance. Justice like this is sure to enhance the reputation of the Allahabad High Court. It was enough that the Judge acquitted the prisoner. Why did he go out of his way to slander native women as a class? The Judges of the Allahabad High Court ought to bear in mind how Sir Mordaunt Wells, of the late Supreme Court, had to fare by slandering the native community in his judgment in the famous forgery case. Are not Judges liable for defamation? A few more Judges like this, and the reputation of the High Courts will come to its climax.

22. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 18th August is indignant at the remark of the Judge of the Allahabad High Court, who tried the recent rape case, that "native girls often give their consent for a small consideration, but when they are caught by relatives and friends engaged in immoral acts, they often raise a hue and cry and give out that they have been forcibly ravished." No native woman in, however destitute and mean a condition, will consent to sell herself to a foreigner, and, least of all, will engage with a foreigner in such an immoral act in an open and public place, like a beast. The very fact that the act was done in a public place, removes the least shadow of a doubt that the woman was forcibly violated. It is hoped that Sir Antony MacDonnell will look into the papers of this case.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 18th, 1896.

(d)—Education.

23. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 12th August writes as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor and the Rajshahi College.

When the Lieutenant-Governor said, in Rampur Boalia, that the main object of his tour was to acquire local knowledge, acquaintance with local wants, local officers and local people, it will not be out of place to point out to His Honour that his impressions and information about the Rajshahi College were not quite correct. The College has been suffering, not only in respect of the teaching of English to the pupils, but its management in other respects, too, has not been satisfactory. There is no account, for instance, to show how the annual grant of Rs. 420 for purchasing books for the library has been spent for the last seven or eight years. Now that a separate librarian has been appointed, it is hoped that Sir Alfred Croft will see that this point is cleared up. The practice of bringing in a new man, whenever a higher teachership falls vacant, has led many competent lower teachers to resign and has damped the energy of others who still stick to their posts. But it is idle to expect good work from such disappointed and disheartened men.

The Lieutenant-Governor said, that when he went over the College and the Collegiate School, he found teeming classes. But the Principal's report, which is every year submitted to the Director of Public Instruction, will show that the B. A. classes contain a very small number of students. It was these classes that were specially referred to in the memorial.

His Honour appears to be perfectly ignorant of the fact that the Rajshahi College has been maintained at the cost of private individuals. The institution was started as a school maintained by Government. The zamindar of Dubalhati, the late Raja Haranath Rai Bahadur, then placed in the hands of Government property capable of yielding an annual income of five

HINDU RANJIKA,
Aug. 12th, 1896.

thousand rupees, in order to raise the school to the status of a second class College. Some years later the late Raja Pramatha Nath Rai Bahadur of Dighapatia, through the Rajshahi Association, paid to Government one and-a-half lakh of rupees in order to have B. A. classes opened in the College. Subsequently Rani Monmohini of Putia paid to Government twenty thousand rupees for the opening of B. L. classes. Besides these princely donations, the College has received considerable pecuniary support from the Rajshahi Association and several other persons of the district; for instance, one thousand rupees for the Botanical Gardens attached to the College, twenty thousand rupees for the College building, six thousand rupees for the College laboratory, and ten thousand rupees for the hostel. Thus, taking the zamindari made over by the Raja of Dubalhati to be worth a lakh of rupees, the people of Rajshahi have contributed Rs. 3,07,000 within a period of twenty-three years from 1872 to 1895 towards the maintenance of the College. And the following is a list of the scholarships which have been founded by private individuals, in addition to the payment of the above donations:—

- (1) The Pramathanath essay scholarship at the rate of Rs. 4 per month, tenable for two years, to be awarded to a student of the F. A. class.
- (2) The Mayo free studentship, tenable for two years, awarded to a student of the third-year class out of the interest of the fund which was raised by the Rajshahi public.
- (3) The Ramkumar scholarship, tenable for two years, awarded to a student of the third-year class.
- (4) The Mohinimohan prize of Rs. 80 to be awarded to students who pass most creditably, with honours, at the B. A. examination.
- (5) The late Krishna Chandra Sarkar's scholarship of Rs. 17 a month awarded to a student of the third-year class and tenable for two years.

Besides these, there were six Dighapatia scholarships which have now been withdrawn.

It will thus be seen that the poor results which are scored at the B. A. examination by the Rajshahi College are not due to the absence of scholarships as an inducement to intelligent boys to stick to the College after passing the F. A. examination. There was a Dighapatia scholarship of Rs. 20 a month awarded to the student who after having passed the B. A. examination from the College studied there for the M. A. examination. But though the scholarship was awarded to six students, only two of them appeared at the M. A. examination, and one only of these succeeded in passing. One year the scholarship was granted to a student, who read for his M. A. degree at the Presidency College. The remaining five Dighapatia scholarships were of the value of Rs. 3 a month each, and were awarded to students who passed best from the College at the F. A. examination, and continued their studies there. But of the fifteen candidates who passed the F. A. examination from the College during the three years from 1892 to 1894, only two availed themselves of the scholarship. The fact is that even students, whose home is in Rajshahi, will not read for the B. A. degree at the Rajshahi College, so long as better Professors for teaching English are not brought over. At present, parents have no alternative but to send their boys to Calcutta, even at the cost of fifteen to twenty rupees a month, and notwithstanding the advantage of scholarships at the local College. The memorial pointed out that in the years 1893, 1894 and 1895, four, six and eight boys respectively failed at the B. A. examination only for their failure to keep pass marks in English. Such results cannot certainly be avoided, so long as the present staff for teaching English is maintained.

As for the misbehaviour of which the boys of the Rajshahi College were guilty, it will be enough to mention that the offence was represented to His Honour in an exaggerated and magnified form. His Honour may read what appeared in the *Sanjivani* newspaper in connection with the case (R. N. P. for 14th December 1895, paragraph 15).

In conclusion, the attention of the authorities is drawn to the management of the Pramatha Nath Hindu hostel. The Superintendent of the hostel does not live on the premises, though the very object of the institution requires that

he should. There should also be a committee composed of teachers and professors for supervision of the management.

24. The *Sahachar* of the 12th August says that the re-organization of the Education Department will benefit European officers, but will leave native officers in the position in which they are, or reduce them to a worse position. Some years hence there will, it is true, be a larger number of native officers in the Department than there is now, but they will not get such high pay as they can get now.

SAHACHAR,
Aug. 12th, 1896.

25. Referring to the reply which was given by Mr. Risley to Mr. A. M. Bose's question in the Bengal Council on the 11th July last, regarding the new rule about levying full lecture fees from plucked students in the Calcutta

SAHACHAR.

The re-organization of the Education service.
Fees payable by plucked medical students.

Medical College, the same paper observes that it is perfectly inexplicable why Dr. MacLeod should have told the Senate that the College Council had decided not to levy any fees from any plucked student, if the Council had really decided not to levy fees only from students failing at the final examination. Dr. MacLeod was not the man to tell an untruth knowingly. Nor is it possible that he misunderstood the sense of the Council which decided the question; for, in that case, he would have been corrected by Doctors Birch and Raye and Sir Alfred Croft, who were present at the meeting of the Senate at which Dr. MacLeod made the statement. Mr. Risley said, that when Government sanctioned the new rule, it knew nothing about the decision of the Medical College Council. This is rather strange. Was it not the duty of the College Council, as well as the Director of Public Instruction, to inform Government about it? The College Council and Sir Alfred Croft have now decided to levy, from plucked candidates, lecture fees at half the usual rates. But it is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will remit the fees altogether.

26. The same paper has the following about the interpellations on the subject of text-books, which were recently made in the Bengal Council:—

SAHACHAR.

The agitation regarding text-books.

We praise the agitators for their good intentions, but we fear that they have gone a little too far. The subjects and text-books for the Entrance examination are neither too many nor too difficult, and boys of fifteen or sixteen can be expected to master them easily. The fact that a very large number of candidates pass the examination every year, proves that most boys, who go up for it, find no difficulty in acquiring a fair knowledge of the subjects prescribed for their study. Many Entrance examiners, whom we have consulted, on the point hold the same view. And it is a significant fact that there has been no complaint of this kind during the forty years which have elapsed since the establishment of the University.

The only addition to the Entrance Course, recently made, is Huxley's Science Primer; and there should be no complaint about it, when physics must be read for the F. A. examination.

We cannot also agree with the agitators in their view of what should form the subjects of study for the Middle and Primary examinations. These gentlemen's experience is confined to Calcutta, and they do not seem to have ever bestowed a thought on the system of education which was formerly pursued in the mufassal, and the changes which that system has now undergone. *Subhankari*, or mental arithmetic has been taught in our pathshalas from time immemorial, and is a most useful branch of knowledge. Far from producing any injurious effect on the intellect of the young children who learn it, it exercises their mental faculties and serves to develop them. Practice in *subhankari* also paves the way for the study of the European system of arithmetic. The study of the first book of Euclid, too, cannot be difficult to boys who have already received some mathematical training from *subhankari* and arithmetic. That boys who pass the Middle Examinations fully assimilate the mathematical knowledge they acquire, is proved by the fact that such of them as subsequently go to an English school, generally excel other boys of their class in mathematics. Mensuration, too, has been always studied in our pathshalas, because a knowledge of it is useful to mufassal people having land to measure. Bearing in mind that the majority of mufassal boys end their education in the Middle schools and then enter the service of zamindars as muharrirs

or amins, not one of the subjects referred to above can be regarded as injurious or superfluous. The agitators will deprive the mufassal people of the means of earning their livelihood, if they insist on the abolition of either *subhankari* or arithmetic or geometry or mensuration from the middle English and middle vernacular courses. The reading of a history, written in simple Bengali, cannot also be difficult for Middle school boys. Neither can the few elementary principles of science, which are taught to them, do them any harm. Their study is calculated to widen the sphere of their knowledge. Boys, who finish their education in the Middle schools, ought to have opportunities for learning what heat is, how sound is produced and what the principal properties of matter are. The teaching of such simple elements of science needs no experimental illustration, and the schools which teach them need not necessarily keep any costly apparatus for conducting experiments. If experiment be absolutely necessary, Government can supply a set of apparatus, at a cost of seventy to eighty rupees, to each school which receives a grant-in aid from it.

The only thing in the upper primary scholarship examination course, which may appear unnecessary or superfluous, is a text-book on the elements of physical science. But the subject is optional; and a student who does not like to read it, may learn the elements of agricultural science.

There is no subject in the lower primary scholarship examination which can be regarded as superfluous. The lower primary pathsalas teach only what our old pathsalas taught. The objection against their course is therefore perfectly groundless.

Formerly there were a few superfluous subjects in some of the examinations, but Sir Alfred Croft has wisely removed them. As for hygiene, the necessity of a knowledge of the subject to mufassal people cannot be exaggerated.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

27. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th August refers to a correspondence published in the *Amrita Bazâr Patrika* to the effect that the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Prothero, having abused, before the students, the popular head-master, as well as the other masters of the Muzaffarpur school, they have resigned in a body, and says that the Director of Public Instruction should enquire into the matter.

HITAVADI.

28. The same paper says that, so long the Central Text-book Committee concerned itself with approving or rejecting books without assigning reasons for its rejection of any book, or laying down the lines on which books on any particular subject should be written. This was a source of great hardship to authors generally, and to writers of Bengali Grammars in particular. Only a few of the many Bengali Grammars that have been written have been approved by the Committee, and even those which the Committee have approved, do not agree with one another. It is therefore a matter of rejoicing that the Committee has laid down the lines on which Bengali Grammars should be written. The writer is glad that writers of Bengali Grammars will no longer be able to frighten boys, by introducing a mass of useless and extraneous matter into their books.

But the rules laid down by the Committee are neither complete nor exhaustive. The Committee should see that different Bengali Grammars agree with one another.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

29. The *Bangavasi* of the 15th August says that, on the 1st August last, a meeting of the students of the Rajshahi College was held in the College building. Babu Nanda Krishna Bose, District Magistrate, Rajshahi, occupied the chair, and Babu Akshay Kumar Maitreya, a member of the local bar, delivered an address on discipline. During the discussion on the lecture, one of the students began to criticize the conduct of the Chairman himself and point out his faults. Is this the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's advice and counsel to students recently given at Boalia? Let those who are so very anxious to see the spread of English education in this country mark its effect on the character and conduct of its recipients. The sons of Devas are being turned into sons of Danavas. Angels are being turned into demons. This cannot but grieve the Hindu public.

20. The same paper complains that the practice of smoking "bird's-eye" cigarettes is becoming more and more prevalent among the boys of Calcutta. Even boys of five or six buy cigarettes with the money which they are paid for their tiffin. The writer was once asked to agitate for the stopping of the sale of these cigarettes. But that is impossible. The English Government is not likely to interfere with trade and commerce. It is doubtful, too, whether it is practicable to stop even the retail sale of this objectionable commodity. The authorities are trying their best to encourage moral training among the students. Has their attention been drawn to this prevailing vice? Is there no means to save boys of tender years?

BANGAYASI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

31. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 15th August does not wish to see a Civilian appointed to succeed Sir Alfred Croft as Director of Public Instruction in Bengal. Dr. Martin is an able Educational officer and ought to get the post; but if objection be taken to his appointment, on the ground that his term of service is drawing to a close, then Mr. Rowe should be appointed to succeed Sir Alfred.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

32. A correspondent of the same paper regrets to find that the Fulbari and Mirer Chak Madrassas in the Malda district, which were started by private enterprise, are in a moribund condition for want of funds. The two institutions should be amalgamated in one, and the District Board should make some contribution towards its maintenance.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

33. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 16th August has the following:—
The Dacca District Board spends upon education more than most District Boards in Bengal. Primary education is ruining Dacca. Boys of the lower castes are receiving a varnish of education and giving up their hereditary callings, considering them beneath their notice. The consequence is that many of the native arts and industries are dying out, while the so-called "respectable" professions are being overcrowded. There is thus less production, but a gradually increasing pressure on the land. The prices of food-stuffs are gradually rising. People are not getting a sufficiency of food, and are being weakened. All these sad consequences proceed from the spread of primary education, and it is upon primary education that the District Board has to spend the most.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 16th, 1896.

In most cases there is no need of keeping separate schools for primary education, when in high and middle schools there are adequate facilities for the same. About 80 per cent. of the primary students read in the middle schools. The primary schools need not be totally abolished; they should be kept only where there are no high or middle schools, for the convenience of the children of the poor but respectable classes. The District Board cannot afford to support primary schools which are not urgently needed. The water-supply is neglected by the Dacca District Board, and even the needs of education are not properly attended to, while money is lavished on primary education in a few places. There are villages in Vikrampur where more than five or six schools are maintained, but in places, such as Manikganj, Nawabganj, &c., there is not a single primary school within five or six miles. It is not difficult to start primary schools. Let a man get hold of a dozen boys and he at once starts a *pathsala*, and the District Board is quite ready to aid it; but where people are conscientious enough not to have recourse to such tricks, primary schools are not half so plentiful.

The truth is that the way in which primary education is being encouraged is doing great injury to the country. It is suicidal to encourage the education of the children of the lower classes. The Dacca District Board ought to lay down a rule to the following effect:—Primary schools shall be aided only for the education of the children of the literary castes, such as Brahmans, Kayasthas and Vaidyas. Gurus shall not be paid stipends even if boys of the lower castes pass the examination and it is shown that the fathers and grandfathers had no literary occupation. Primary *pathsalas* shall be aided only when half the boys reading in them belong to literary castes. No objection can be taken to some such course as the above, to check the indiscriminate spread of education among the masses. No caste is prevented from taking the advantage of education. It is a special favour to aid a primary school, and the granting of this favour

should be left entirely at the discretion of the District Board. Even the children of the lower castes are, by this rule, allowed to participate in the benefit of education, provided it is proved that their immediate ancestors carried on literary occupations. The District Board should not aid the education of such children of the lower castes, as are most likely to be led by it to give up their ancestral callings.

Some such rule as the above is likely to lead to another beneficial effect. It will encourage the education of the children of high-class Hindus, Musalmans and Christians who are often outrivalled by the children of the lower castes. If the education of the children of the higher and literary classes are specially encouraged by the District Board, the *gurus* will try their best to secure such boys for their schools.

The aid to girl's schools should be curtailed, along with the aid to primary schools for boys. Girl's schools are doing no good to the country. Girls belonging to high castes do not read in these schools. They never appear in public examinations. Their examination is conducted privately in their houses, and the questions are answered for them by their relatives and friends. Education therefore, does these girls no practical good, while it is an unmitigated evil to the girls of the lower castes.

CHINSURA VARTA-
VAHA,
Aug. 16th, 1896.

34. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 16th August has the following:—

The Revised Educational Scheme.

It will not be well to abolish the grade system. Under the system officers in the Education Department used to get an annual increment of pay. They had also the chance of being promoted to the higher grade. The chance of promotion, or increment of pay, will be gone under the new system. Promotion will depend upon the good will and favour of superior officers.

The new system of grades is not quite intelligible. There are B. A's and M. A's serving as professors or teachers in schools and colleges. In the same college there may be a B. A. Principal, an M. A. Professor, and an M. A. seventh teacher. If in point of scholarship and ability they are all equal, how will you classify them? Under the revised system the first and the second man will be placed in the Provincial grade, while the third man, though equally qualified, will be placed in the subordinate grade. How will you classify the higher grade clerks in the Education Department? In which class will you place the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar of the Calcutta University?

The number of Inspectors has been reduced, and all the six Inspectors will henceforth be recruited from England. No native will be allowed to hold the post of Inspector. The days of Bhudev, Brahma Mohan, Radhika Prasanna and Dinanath will be soon gone. The Secretary of State recommends that head masters of schools should, so far as that is possible, be recruited from England. Educated natives, however, are eminently fit for head masterships. Men like, Ishan, Mahesh Pyari Charan, Rajnarayan and Woomesh, were men of incomparably superior merit, and they have not their equal.

The *bhata* system is, no doubt, admirable. The pay of higher-grade officers has been reduced from Rs. 1,250-1,500 to Rs. 1,000. But this loss will be more than made up by a special allowance of about Rs. 700 a month.

How will you classify the professors and teachers of aided schools and colleges? The Principal of an aided College passes under the category of head-master and the professors under the category of teachers. How are these men to be dealt with under the new system? Will they be brought under the newly organized grades? Officers belonging to the subordinate grade will have very little chance of promotion. No head-master will, in future, have the chance of drawing three hundred, four hundred, or five hundred rupees a month. The days of Girish, Bholanath, Chandi, Nanda, Siva Chandra, Gangadhar and Syam are gone.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA.

35. Referring to the question as to who should be Sir Alfred Croft's

Sir Alfred Croft's successor.

successor, the same paper observes that a Civilian Director will not be a new thing. Mr. Young, the first Director of Public Instruction was a Civilian. But he was not an able officer. It was during his time that the late Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar had to resign his post. The writer is against the appointment of Dr. Martin to the Directorship. The appointment of Mr. Rowe will be far more preferable.

He is an old and experienced Professor, and has done valuable service to the cause of English education in this country.

36. Referring to the Resolution passed by the Faculty of Arts of the Calcutta University, making Bengali an optional subject of study in the F. A., and B. A. examinations, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th August says that the gain is small, but even this small beginning is desirable.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHA
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 18th, 1896.

37. The same paper complains that Mr. Prothero, Inspector of Schools, Bihar Circle, lately insulted the Head-master and the second and third masters of the Muzaffarpur Zilla School. There was a difference between the

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

Inspector and the Head-master about the pronunciation of the word "sew." And for this small difference the Headmaster, who has been praised by Mr. Stack and the Director of Public Instruction, was foully abused by Mr. Prothero, in the class room. The pronunciations of English words are always changing, and the same word is differently pronounced in different places in England. Many are wondering at Mr. Prothero's pedantic officiousness. But they should not wonder. It is only an instance of the danger of 'little knowledge.'

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th August says that certain residents of the village of Misroliya-Madhupur, in the Saran district, complained to the Magistrate, Mr. Wheeler, that Mr. MacGregor, the Manager of Arowal Indigo Factory had widened the way to his factory by forcibly taking possession of their lands. Mr. Wheeler sent the petition to Mr. MacGregor himself, for such remarks as he might wish to make on it. Mr. MacGregor, as might be easily imagined, remarked that the petition should be rejected, and that the matter could not be interfered in. But the matter did not end here. The complainants were soon charged by the Local Board with having cut down trees from a public road. The Local Boards in the Saran district are said to be in the habit of planting trees on private lands, and then claiming such lands as their own. The poor raiyats have then no alternative but to give up the lands. In the present case the complainants were punished and learnt too well how dangerous it is to complain against a planter. Will Sir Alexander Mackenzie enquire into the matter?

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1896.

39. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 15th August writes as follows:—

SARASWAT PATRA,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

The Lieutenant-Governor and the Dacca Municipality.

We take, with all respect, the admonition which the Lieutenant-Governor addressed to the Dacca Municipality. But the advice would have carried greater weight if it had been given after the Lieutenant-Governor had heard everything from the mouths of the Chairman and the Commissioners. It is also probable that the necessity of having to give a face-to-face explanation to the ruler of the Province, would have healed up the scandalous differences.

The Lieutenant-Governor was right in saying that the maintenance of the water-works would prove too heavy a burden for the Municipal fund. The Nawab Bahadur, who bore the cost of the works, can easily also bear the cost of their maintenance. Sir Alexander Mackenzie did not certainly speak of the water-works as a doubtful blessing, in disparagement of the Nawab Bahadur's munificence. But these words of the Lieutenant-Governor have not pleased many people in Dacca.

40. The Lieutenant-Governor, says the *Sanjivani* of the 15th August, has ordered the District Boards to draw up lists of

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

Repair of roads by District Boards.

the roads within their jurisdiction in the order of the urgency of the necessity of repairing them, and to prepare estimates for their repair in the same order. The district roads will not, henceforth, be repaired, according to the whims and caprices of their members. The Lieutenant-Governor should do one thing more. Before these lists and estimates are finally sanctioned, they should be put up for the information of the local public at every thana, munsifi, subdivision and sadar, so that people may examine them and put forward their objections, if they have any,

in time. As things stand at present, many important roads are left unrepaired for years.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

41. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 15th August complains of the inconvenience and hardship suffered by those who have to use the Mirgola ferry on the East Coast Canal in Midnapore. There is only one boat which plies, and it has to serve about 1,000 people. On the 5th August last about fifty people occupied the boat, and the boat capsized and seven people were drowned.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

42. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 15th August cites two instances to show that chastity of women is in danger on Indian railways.

Female chastity in danger on Indian railways. On the 13th July last a young Hindu woman, with a boy of four years, arrived at Baraich. She had a ticket for Nanparha, but being told that the train would not proceed further, she, along with a few other female passengers, intended to pass the night, with the Station Master's permission, in the third-class waiting room. The Station Master had gone home, when two police constables appeared on the platform and prevented the women from entering the waiting room. Being told that they had the Station Master's permission to use the room, the constables said that they had to do their duty, as the Station Master had to do his own. Upon this the women hired a few *ekkās* and started for the *bazār*. The lady in question was going to take her seat in an *ekka* when the constable charged the driver with the intention of taking the woman with ornaments on to his home with criminal object. The driver, afraid of the wrath of the police, went away, leaving the woman and her son on the station platform. The signaller and the booking-clerk asked the constables to allow the lady to pass the night with her son in the waiting room, but in vain. They then proposed to send the woman to the Station Master, but the constables prevented them from doing this. At this juncture a man, apparently moved by pity, took the woman to the police quarters and there ravished her. In the morning the woman in tears related the whole incident to the Station Master, and went away with shame burning in her heart. The Railway authorities are inquiring into the case.

* * * * Devi, a Hindu widow of twenty-five or twenty-six, is a medical practitioner in * * *. Being invited to treat some members of the family of a zamindar of Maharajganj in the Chapra district, she started for that place and was waiting at the station, when the Station Master told her that his wife was seriously ill and he would be highly obliged if she kindly paid her a visit and take her under her treatment. Moved by compassion, she agreed to pass the night at the station, and sent away the zamindar's men, telling them to come the next morning. She was then drugged by the Station Master and remained senseless for two days, during which period the Station Master and the telegraph signaller ravished her. Having regained her consciousness, the poor woman, cast down by grief and shame, resolved to return home, but the Station Master tried his best to prevent her from doing this. She was not even given a ticket. When the train came, the Guard got a ticket for her and she went away, leaving her things behind. She then lodged a complaint of theft against the Station Master, her shame preventing her from prosecuting him for rape? The charge of theft was subsequently withdrawn, the Station Master having returned her things. The injured lady, it is now understood, is thinking of prosecuting the Station Master under the charge of rape.

(h)—*General.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Aug. 11th, 1896.

43. Commenting upon the disparaging reflections on the Indian army, alleged to have been made by Lord Wolseley before the Welby Commission, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 11th August observes that Lord Wolseley's predecessors used to eulogize the Indian army. Why is it then, that the present Commander-in-Chief of the English army has taken it into his head to condemn it? Has the Indian army deteriorated of late in efficiency and

martial quality? Why has the army, which once gave signal proofs of its prowess, now fallen in the estimation of so great a military authority as Lord Wolseley? The native Indian army is still trained by European Officers. If it is equipped with arms of the latest pattern it is not likely to undergo deterioration. It may be that native soldiers are not as efficiently trained as English soldiers. In that case, there is surely cause for anxiety. Native soldiers led by European Officers never turned their backs on the battle-field. If the Commander-in-Chief of the English army does not think them capable of successfully opposing a European army, there must have been some falling off in their training. And if that is true, the Government of India has, no doubt, laid the axe at the root of its own welfare, and of the welfare of the Indian people.

It is well known to the Indian people that, since the Sepoy Mutiny, the English Government has begun to distrust the Indian soldier. If it is true that the Government has also ceased to take special care in the matter of the training and arming of the Indian army, it has committed a stupendous blunder, which is sure to tarnish its fair fame. It will be to the eternal shame and discredit of the Government if it is true that it has been instrumental in gradually stamping out the martial qualities of the Sikhs and Rajputs, Gurkhas and Pathans, who have ever been distinguished for courage and bravery. The British Government should try its best to remove the stain from its character.

One cannot, however, after all, induce oneself to believe, that the great English nation is capable of such meanness and narrow-mindedness. The public cannot, therefore, attach any very great credit to Lord Wolseley's utterances. It is quite likely that he either does not know the true state of affairs in the country, or, knowing it, has concealed the real condition of things.

44. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th August strongly protests against Dr. Bomford's proposal to reduce the pay of Medical supernumeraries from 100 to 50 rupees, and to withhold from them the guarantee of permanent appointment after one year's service, on the ground that able men will not agree to serve as supernumeraries on the new conditions, and thus people will lose confidence in the medical treatment to be had in the Calcutta Medical College. If retrenchment is absolutely needed, let it be effected by reducing the fat pay of the Principal and Professors of the College.

45. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th August observes that Dr. Bomford has submitted a proposal for the sanction of the Government, by virtue of which the pay of supernumeraries in the Medical College will be reduced from 100 to 50 rupees a month, and they will not, as at present, have any claim to permanent appointment, their appointment being left entirely to the discretion of the Principal. Dr. Bomford argues that men are available for these posts at the reduced pay. Dr. Bomford draws Rs. 1,800 a month, but it would not be difficult to get men at half the pay, quite fit for his post. No competent man will accept a supernumeraryship at Rs. 50 a month. If Dr. Bomford's proposal is carried out there will be a dearth of competent and meritorious Medical practitioners in the Government service. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will not give his sanction to Dr. Bomford's proposal. Dr. Bomford's prolific brain is full of idle and mischievous schemes. The sooner he is removed from the Medical College, the better for all concerned.

46. Referring to the Labour Commission, the same paper observes that now that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, poor coolies may expect to receive justice. The people have unbounded confidence in His Honour's impartiality, and he will now have to put his reputation for justice and impartiality to the test, so to speak, of a fiery ordeal. If he can successfully pass through this ordeal, the Bengalis will worship him as a god. There can be nothing more dear to a ruler than the sincere love and respect of the subject people. For the sake of good Government King Ram exiled his faithful wife. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is going to be put to a test as severe as that.

47. Referring to the Government's reply to the Honble Mr. A. M. Bose's interpellation regarding the coolie-recruiting abuse, the same paper observes that people are

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

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SANJIVANI.

anxiously awaiting the decision of the Government in this matter. Cooly-recruiters have made it quite impossible for honest people to live in peace and security. They are in perpetual alarm, and ever in dread of the cooly-recruiters. The Government is *Ma-Bap* of the people and their lives and honour are in its safe keeping. Who will or can save them but the Government? The English Government has earned the everlasting gratitude of the Negroes by abolishing the slave trade. Is it not a shame and a scandal that British tea planters, supported as they are by British law, should be allowed to use the help of cooly-recruiters, with all their arts of deception, to press innocent and unwary men, women and children into service in tea gardens, service which is no better than slavery? Let the British Government earn the gratitude of the Indian people, by stamping out this slave-trade in this country. Mrs. Stowe roused the conscience of the English nation against the American slave-trade, by writing her *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Is there no kindhearted English lady in India who can rouse the sleeping lion against this Indian slave-trade?

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

48. The Government, observes the same paper, itself confesses that it charges one-third of the cost of collecting the road and public works cesses on the Public Works Cess Fund and two-thirds on the road cess fund. In 1879-80 the total cost of collection amounted to Rs. 1,61,041, but the Government paid out of the Public Works Cess Fund only Rs. 44,500, instead of Rs. 53,680. The Government has thus broken its promise, and cheated the District Boards to the tune of Rs. 9,180. Again, in 1894-95, the cost of collections amounted to Rs. 2,87,186. The Government paid out of the Public Works Cess Fund only Rs. 44,500, instead of Rs. 95,728, which is one-third of the cost of collection. The Government is thus clearly cheating the District Boards of Rs. 51,228 a year. It is thus quite clear that, during the period 1879-80 to 1895-96, the Government has cheated the District Boards of about five lakhs of rupees. What has it got to say to this? The Lieutenant-Governor, in his Barisal speech, characterized the Barisal District Board's advice about the application of mutation fees to water-supply, as an advice for wholesale robbery. But is not the Government acting like a wholesale robber, by thus depriving the District Boards of their dues?

CHINSURA,
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 16th, 1896.

49. Referring to the Report on Sanitation in Bengal during 1895, the *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 16th August cannot understand why as many as 26 men were sentenced to imprisonment for neglecting to register births. Imprisonment for an offence like this is certainly a very strange thing, and it is most likely that there were circumstances which justified this severe punishment. The Government complains that the Native Press criticizes Government measures, without sufficient information. But is not the Government, which suppresses necessary information, more to blame than the Native Press?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 17th, 1896.

50. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th August advises the Government to keep Rai Durgagati Banerji Bahadur, Collector of Calcutta, in his post for a few years more. There are few able and experienced public officers who have, like him, earned the good opinion of both the European and native communities. The Government has pleased the public by granting Maulvi Dilawar Hossein an extension of service, and it is to be hoped that it will do the same in the case of Rai Durgagati Banerji, Bahadur.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

51. In the opinion of the same paper, Mr. Stevens, Senior Member of the Revenue Board, should be granted an extension of service. The "fifty-five year rule" is not enforced in the case of High Court Judges, and it should not also be enforced in the case of the Members of the Revenue Board, which is, so to speak, the High Court of the Revenue Department. Age is not a disqualification, but a special qualification in a Judicial officer, just as it is in the case of a Physician and a Professor. It is very rare to come across a Civilian so able and experienced as Mr. Stevens, and so very highly esteemed by both the native and European communities. The retirement of Mr. Stevens will be a serious loss to the Board. No other Civilian is so well acquainted with settlement work. The Orissa Settlement has not yet been completed, and the cadastral survey

has been just begun. At such a time, the retirement of Mr. Stevens will seriously tell upon the Revenue Board.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

52. *The Bankura Darpan* of the 16th August suggests the following two amendments in the Penal Code and the Police Act respectively:—

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 16th, 1896.

Amendments in the Penal Code and the Police Act suggested.

(1) The definition of 'theft' in the Penal Code should be modified. As the definition now stands, even a schoolboy who plucks a fruit from a wayside garden without the owners' permission, and a poor man who picks up a few pieces of rejected wood, or gathers a few dried branches of a tree not belonging to himself for a fire in winter, is liable to prosecution on a charge of theft, and is ever after branded with the name of thief.

(2) The provision of the Police Act relating to the appointment of special constables, should be amended so as not to give Magistrates power to enlist rich and respectable people, who cannot possibly bear the hardships attaching to a constable's duty. The present law on the subject is quite indefensible, unless the natives, rich and poor, high and low, are all supposed to be wholly devoid of a sense of honour, and, indeed, no better than mere beasts. The law should be altogether repealed, Government reserving to itself the power of enlisting special constables, only on occasions when danger to the safety of the State is apprehended. It is perfectly superfluous to employ special constables, on apprehension of a slight breach of the public peace by village raiyats or the like.

53. *The Hitaishi* of the 18th August complains that too much of the time of the Bengal Council is now taken up with frivolous interpellations and replies thereto. Government is therefore getting annoyed, and the result of that annoyance can be easily anticipated. The other day a Member of the Council protested against the continued use as text-books of Babu Radhikaprassanna Mukherji's "Swyastharaksha", and the late Babu Rajkrishna Mukherji's "Bangalar Itihas", remarking that there were many books of equal merit. The interpellator has certainly never read the books, and has made the above remark on some other person's authority. So far as the writer is aware, Rajkrishna Babu's small history has no equal in Bengali literature, and it is doubtful whether so valuable a history will ever be written again.

HITAISHI,
Aug. 18th, 1896.

54. A correspondent of the same paper says that, in order to prevent false and harassing objections to claims of rent, such as the land is another zamindar's or the rent claimed is larger than what is really due, it has been provided in the Tenancy Act, that when a raiyat makes objections like the above, so much rent as is admitted by him to be due from him, should be deposited in the Court or, unless there should be special reasons for doing otherwise, the whole claim should be decreed against him, without hearing his objections. But no illustrations are given in the Act of the nature of the special reasons referred to in section 150 of the Act. The Courts, therefore, invariably decree claims of rent, where rent is not deposited by the objecting raiyat. The raiyats have, therefore, no alternative but to deny all claims altogether, in order to be able to make their objections heard. The provision in question is therefore, in a manner, teaching the raiyats to tell lies.

HITAISHI.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

55. The Government of India, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 15th August, has lately laid down that no Native Chief shall be permitted to acquire land, or landed property, in British India. The Maharaja of Terhi lately bought a house in Mussoorie, and the Local Government brought the fact to the notice of the Supreme Government. The latter has declared the purchase null and void, and has required the Maharaja to dispose of the house within six months. We cannot understand why the Government has passed this harsh order. Does it fear that if a Native Chief resides in any place in British India.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

Native Chiefs not to buy landed property in British India.

his men will prove an eternal source of trouble and mischief to their neighbours? Or does the Government believe that the residence of Native Chiefs in hill stations will be a check on the arbitrary conduct of the European residents, and may lead to disturbance and breach of the peace? If Native Chiefs are not permitted to acquire landed property in British India, why are they found fault with if they refuse to allow Europeans to acquire landed property in their own dominions? Lately, there was a hue and cry raised by the Europeans, because the Nizam's Government did not permit Europeans to acquire landed property in Hyderabad. Is this justice and fair play? Europeans will do what they please in the dominions of the Native Chiefs, but the latter, who are helping the Government and are always ready to help it with men and money, are not permitted to acquire an inch of ground in British India. Subjection, it is true, has its curse. But should the British Government, which boasts of its justice, treat the faithful Native Chiefs in this shabby manner?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Aug. 11th, 1896.

56. Referring to Babu Girish Chandra Basu's memorial to the Magistrate of Burdwan on behalf of the flood-stricken people of Berugram, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 11th

August observes that the tale of distress, unfolded in the memorial, is extremely heartrending. The flood of the 21st July has destroyed about three hundred houses in Berugram, and has made as many, quite unfit for human habitation. Twenty-five head of cattle have been washed away, and damage has been done to granaries and hay stacks. Both men and cattle are in distress. The day-labourers are thrown out of employment. Homeless and helpless they have not a dry spot to lie or cook their food on, and thereby satisfy their own hunger and the hunger of their children. Old women of eighty say that they never before, saw such flood in Berugram. The Magistrate of Burdwan should personally go to Berugram, and inquire into the condition of the distressed people. The Government is not likely to attach to the representations of any other person, the weight which it is sure to attach to the report of the Magistrate. If he advises the Government to take measures to relieve the distress of the flood-stricken people, the Government is sure to act according to his advice. It is as much the duty of the Government to protect the people against floods and other natural calamities, as it is to protect them against the depredations of thieves, dacoits and the attacks of wild animals.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

Prospects of crops in the Burdwan district.

57. The same paper reports that there have been copious showers of rain in some parts of the Burdwan district. In others, however, rain is still wanted. In many parts there has been very little rainfall. On the whole, the prospects of crops are not equally hopeful in all parts of the district.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 12th, 1896.

Prospects of the crops in the Murshidabad district.

58. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 12th August says that want of sufficient rainfall is seriously interfering with the *aus* and *aman* crops in the Murshidabad district. The signs of a severe scarcity are already visible.

The price of rice is gradually rising.

SAHACHAR,
Aug. 12th, 1896.

Rainfall and the crops in Muzaffarpur.

59. A correspondent of the *Sahachar* of the 12th August reports complete cessation of rainfall in Muzaffarpur for about a month, and says that there is no indication that it will shortly recommence. The *bhadoi* crop is, in consequence, withering up. It may yield a four-anna return, if there is sufficient rain yet. The *aman* paddy, too, is not expected to be successful; *khals*, and *bils* have all dried up, the tanks alone contain some water.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

Floods in the Karkai, in the Singhbhum district.

60. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th August says that many villages have been destroyed, and many men and animals killed by the recent floods in the Karkai, in the Singhbhum district. Nearly 500 houses have been swept away at Saraikulla. The bridge over the Roro has been destroyed. The writer does not know what measures Government is adopting for the relief of the people, who have suffered from the floods.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

61. In the opinion of the *Bangavasi* of the 15th August, there is great misfortune in store for the Indian people. In Bengal, want of rain has all but destroyed the *aus*

An impending scarcity.

crop. In Bihar great damage has been done to Indian corn. In the North-Western and the Central Provinces there was great scarcity, but last week's rain has slightly improved the state of things there. Many apprehend a wide-spread scarcity throughout Aryavarta. Even the Anglo-Indian papers have sounded a note of alarm. The *Englishman* speaks of impending scarcity, and the *Pioneer* observes that "another week without rain will be disastrous." That week has passed without rain. The people anxiously wait to see what steps the Government takes to relieve their distress, when the apprehended scarcity breaks out.

62. Govinda Chundra Das writes in the same paper that there is still great distress in Hatia island, in the Noakhali district. A few days ago the Magistrate assured the distressed people that all of them would indiscriminately receive help from the Government. The assurance, however, has not proved true. Only the landed people are getting advances from the Government, and those who have nothing in their possession are entirely helpless. About 200 persons daily flocked to the Magistrate for rice, but he plainly told them that those who had no property could not expect help from the Government. If this policy is persisted in, all but the landed people in Hatia will perish. The Magistrate, however, has asked the advice of the Commissioner as to what steps should be taken to relieve the distress of the helpless poor. The poor man whom starvation drove to attempt suicide, has been sentenced to one day's simple imprisonment. The Magistrate and some of the local zamindars have imported rice, and are selling it at Rs. 4-6 per *maund*. Those who can buy will, of course, get it. But those who have no money, will have to live upon the sight of the rice.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 15th, 1896.

63. Correspondents of the same paper complain of want of rain, and of the unsatisfactory nature of the crops. In Dhurmada, in the Nadia district, rain is badly wanted. The prospects of crops are not at all satisfactory. In Talsan, in the Bogra district, rice was sown under favourable circumstances, but want of rain has almost dried up the rice plants. In about 40 or 50 villages in Jessore the prospects of both the *aus* and *aman* crops are unsatisfactory. In Ratanpur, in the Khulna district, crops have been almost destroyed. There is scarcity of food. Unhusked rice is selling at 24 *seers* per rupee. The prospects of crops in Habibpur in the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district, were, at one time, very good. But great damage has been done to the crops on account of want of rain for the last 14 or 15 days. In Bibuhat, in the Chittagong district, cultivation has practically come to a standstill, and rice is selling at 8 or 9 *seers* per rupee. Rain is wanted in Manohendi, in the Dacca district. Both jute and *aus* crops are disappointing. *Boro* rice has not even been sown. There is want of rain in Rahimpur, in the Tippera district. There has been a bumper jute crop, but the prospects of the rice crop are bad. Rice is selling at Rs. 2-12 0 or Rs. 3 per *maund*. The *bhadoi* crops have been destroyed through want of rain in Ranisankail, in the Dinajpur district. Rain is badly wanted in Mahajanpur, in the Nadia district. The rice crop has been destroyed. The Mahajans have stopped advancing rice. Scarcity is impending. Scarcity has already broken out in Patahi, in the Tirhut district. The *bhadoi* crops have all been destroyed. The Mahajans have stopped selling or lending rice. The rice market rose in a day. The rice, which was selling at 28 *seers* per rupee, is now selling at 22 *seers* per rupee. The rice plants have been destroyed in Bamunasha, in the Burdwan district. The prospects of the *aman* crop are most unsatisfactory. Few are getting two meals a day. Rice is selling at 14 *seers* per rupee. Rice is selling at 17 *seers* per rupee in Nacchua-para, in the Dinajpur district. There is no rain. The rice plants are drying up in the scorching heat of the sun. The prospects of crops are disappointing in Kaliganj, in the Khulna district. Coarse rice is selling at Rs. 3-12 per *maund*. Babu Girija Nath Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of Satkhira, is lending money to the distressed people at interest at the rate of three pice per rupee, per month, on registered bonds. The rate of interest is heavy, and the cost of registration also is too heavy for poor raiyats. There have been good showers of rain in Panchgaon, in the Noakhali district, in the course of last week. But rice is selling at Rs. 3 and Rs. 3-10 per *maund*. The betel-nut trees have been destroyed. Scarcity is impending.

BANGAVASI.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Aug. 13th, 1896.

64. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 13th August has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's replies to Addresses.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie laughed at the Gaya people, who, in their address, pointed out the desirability of separating Bihar from Bengal. His Honour ascribed the origin of the separation question solely to newspaper agitation. But to the pleaders of Bhagalpur, who prayed for the removal of the Monghyr Subordinate Judge's Court to the former place, His Honour gladly held out a promise to consider their suggestion, perhaps thinking that a refusal would displease the pleaders, who were mostly Bengali Hindus. This shows that to do nothing contrary to the wish of the Bengalis, will be the motto for the guidance of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. But the people of Bihar should not lose heart at the Lieutenant-Governor's attitude towards the separation question. They must continue their agitation, until their labours are crowned with success.

His Honour expressed his displeasure with the Dacca Municipality for not presenting him with a costly address. But how does this conduct agree with what he said in his Darbhanga speech—that he was sorry to see so much money wasted on a pyrotechnic display, and other arrangements made for his reception? It is clear that it is only the address that His Honour wants from public bodies, although he said that the silver casket, in which the addresses were presented being intended for Lady Mackenzie, would be gladly received by her for use as toys for her children.

We greatly admire the rule of Sir Charles Elliott, because he could keep all sections of his subjects under his firm control, and showed no partiality to any particular class or community.

PRATIKAR,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

65. The *Pratihar* of the 14th August has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie as the ruler of Bengal.

The actions and utterances of a ruler contain an indication of his policy. The policy indicated by Sir Alexander Mackenzie's actions and utterances is one entirely different from that of Sir Charles Elliott. The people of Bengal were miserable under Sir Charles Elliott's administration, and no one knows where their misery would have ended, if Sir Charles had not been succeeded by a ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It is impossible to correct all the errors of an administration within a short time, especially when a Lieutenant-Governor has to obey superior control, and cannot on that account do, at his own will and discretion, whatever appears to him good for his subjects. From the very day, however, of his accession to the Bengal *musnud*, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has devoted himself to the welfare of his subjects. Unlike his predecessor, who excited quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has clearly indicated in his speeches that he will make no distinction of Hindus and Musalmans, but will treat all with impartiality; that no undue favour will be shown to Musalmans, and competent Musalmans will be taken into the service of Government. By following a policy like this, Sir Alexander Mackenzie may be expected to put a stop to quarrels between the two peoples, and undo the harm that his predecessor did to both by his indiscreet policy.

His Honour's mufassal utterances are not only reassuring but instructive to the people. For a long time they had not heard words of sympathy like those which fell from His Honour at Pabna. May the people reciprocate their Ruler's feeling! His enunciation of the object of mufassal tours, and his unwillingness to see the people's money wasted on his reception, are a guarantee that under a Ruler like him, the people of Bengal shall have little cause for complaint.

Sir Charles Elliott's attitude towards high education was of a hostile nature. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Rajshahi speech not only shows no feeling against high education, but proves a clear feeling in its favour. Students did not come in for harsh treatment at His Honour's hand, but received from him salutary advice. The pardon he extended to the boys of the Rajshahi College will teach them a noble lesson in morality.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a friend of Local Self-Government. He wants to extend its scope, and to place District and Local Boards in a position which

may enable them to devote greater attention to works which will be really beneficial to the country. His Honour is doing his best to grapple with the water-supply question, and, finding the people in great fear of fresh taxation, he has assured them that it is not his intention to impose fresh taxes everywhere.

The Secretaries to Government naturally sing to the tune of their Chief. Under Sir Charles Elliott they treated the people with scant courtesy, and slighted their prayers and memorials against the officials. But with the accession of Sir Alexander Mackenzie a change has come over the spirit of the administration in this respect. Interpellations in the Legislative Council do not now elicit the vague answers which they extorted under Sir Charles Elliott, nor do the answers, which are now given, betray clear signs of annoyance and anger. The memorials of the people are not now thrown into the waste-paper basket, but receive replies, good or bad. And the faults of subordinate officers are corrected. It cannot be in the nature of things that under Sir Alexander Mackenzie every want and grievance of the people will be removed. But it will be enough if those wants and grievances are removed, which it may be possible to remove.

66. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 14th August is glad that Mr. Bolton is freely mixing with the natives. This is a proof of his high-mindedness.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

67. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th August has the following :—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Musalman Community.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's counsel to the Musalman community is no doubt friendly. First deserve and then desire. Merit will be always recognized by the Government. Justice and impartiality are the best principles of Government. The reward of merit, wherever found, is the recommendation of these just principles. Deviation from these principles is bad policy. It makes good government impossible. The officials, who have so long been showing undue favour to the Musalmans, are only serving to make the Government discredited. They have not certainly taken the right path. The Musalmans should not be offended with the Lieutenant-Governor for giving them wise advice, and thereby making them follow the right path. It is a pity that some Musalmans should take Sir Alexander Mackenzie's counsel in a bad light. The *Moslem Chronicle* is praising Sir Charles Elliott, and condemning his successor's policy. Not only Sir Charles Elliott but many other officials have persistently and systematically given the Musalmans indulgence. This official indulgence has almost spoiled them. Lord Ripon's Education Commission recommended the creation of special scholarships for Musalmans. That recommendation has been carried into effect, in spite of the dissent of Sir David Barbour and the late Babu Bhudev Mukharji, in whose opinion any special favour shown to the Musalmans was sure to create discontent among the Hindus, and deprive the former of the incentive of a fair competition. Sir David Barbour's prediction has been fulfilled. The *Moslem Chronicle* argued that if special favour has been shown to the Musalmans in the matter of scholarships, there is no reason why special favour should not be shewn them also in the matter of employment in the public service. One wrong act leads to many others. If the Musalmans had not been shown any special favour by the Education Commission, they would not have ventured to demand more such favour now. They would not have certainly grumbled at Sir Alexander Mackenzie's justice and impartiality, had they not been spoiled by the indulgence given them by Sir Charles Elliott and many of his predecessors. Even the *Englishman* has condemned the Musalman clamour for favouritism, and expressed its dissatisfaction at the blind policy of the officials, who have spoiled the Musalmans by favouritism. But the *Pioneer*, which does not like Sir Alexander Mackenzie's just and impartial policy, is trying its best to fan Musalman discontent. Its sole object is to set the Hindus against the Musalmans, and thereby ruin both; it can give up everything else in this world, it cannot give up this idea. Both Sir Antony MacDonnell and Sir Alexander Mackenzie are trying their best to make Hindus and Musalmans friends of each, and have naturally incurred the *Pioneer's* displeasure. It is now trying its best to make the Bengal people grow dissatisfied with Sir Alexander's rule. It is also trying to disaffect

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 16th, 1896.

Musalmans, by insinuating that the Hindu Superintendents in the Government offices are jealous of Musalman welfare. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a calm and dispassionate ruler. He knows Musalmans and Hindus too well to be misled.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
June 18th, 1896.

68. The *Samvadvahika* of the 18th June finds fault with the course of study prescribed for the pupils of the Balasore Training Institution, and observes that either the course of study should be revised, or the school abolished.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

69. A correspondent of the same paper warns the Balasore public against being cheated by *Mohini* and *Bhabani*, who have been found to swindle people by promising to cure diseases by supernatural means.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-
VAD,
June 24th, 1896.

70. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 24th June and the *Samvahika* of the 25th June notice, with pleasure, the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign. The completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign.

UTKALDIPIKA,
June 27th, 1896.

71. A special correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* of the 27th June contradicts the statement, regarding the mismanagement of the Puri temple, published in a previous issue of this paper and observes that the ritual and ceremonies of the temple are conducted with regularity under the able management of Pandit Kapileswar Misra, the Assistant Manager.

UTKALDIPIKA,

72. All the Native Papers of Orissa, under report, state that there were copious showers of rain in all the districts of Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA,

73. The *Utkaldipika* of the 27th June does not at all approve of the proposal to tax music in Municipalities in the amending Bengal Municipal Bill that is before the Bengal Legislative Council.

UTKALDIPIKA.

74. The same paper approves of the reformatory measures that have been adopted by Government in connection with the Cuttack Survey School.

UTKALDIPIKA,
June 20th, 1896.

75. Referring to the assessment of the Cuttack khas mahal, the *Utkaldipika* of the 20th June points out that the rents of the under-tenants should have been determined by the assessing Officer, and they should not have been left to the mercy of the tenants; that the old *Bhowria*, or survey, numbers should have been compared with the new survey numbers, in order to determine which numbers can pay an increased *jama*; that the old assessment list should have been compared with the new in detail, in order to determine the scale of the increase in the *jama*; that in the last settlement the *jama* increased from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 10,000, and this increase proved so oppressive that the Revenue Board were compelled to remit Rs. 1,500, and that it is not a thrifty policy to seek to increase the *jama*, when this cannot be done without oppressing the tenants and under-tenants, on whose prosperity depends that of the khas mahal.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI,
of the first fortnight
of Sravan 1303 (B.S.)

76. A correspondent of the *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* of the first fortnight of Sravan 1303 (B.S.) complains against the Rural Sub-Registrars of Sylhet.

(1) The Rural Sub-Registrars are very incompetent men. They have very little experience of their work, and are thoroughly unfit for their posts. They are not at all acquainted with the registration law or with the details of registration work. Consequently, they have to depend upon the subordinate officers in all things. They are helpless tools in their hands. Their duty begins and ends with signing documents. The amla do everything for them, and demand extra-fees from those who go to them for registration.

The Government has not done well in appointing such incompetent men as Rural Sub-Registrars.

(2) There are three Rural Sub-Registrars in Sylhet. Two of them are scions of high Musalman families, and this appears to be their sole qualification for their posts. The third man is also as incompetent as the other two. These men have been brought up in luxury and pleasure, and they often remain absent from their offices to spend their days in the town, seeking pleasure and amusement. During the absence their work is done by their subordinates, who do the work most shabbily. They may pass spurious documents, and reject the genuine, without ever being taken to task for it.

(3) There seems to be no rule about granting leave to these Rural Sub-Registrars. They are granted leave on the slightest excuse. The men who are appointed to officiate for them, are men of very little education and experience.

(4) The hand-writing of these rural sub-registrars is clumsy and unintelligible. The endorsement on documents is consequently very badly done, in spite of rules to the contrary.

(5) A new sub-registry office is going to be opened in Juldul, in the Karimganj subdivision of the Sylhet district. No incompetent man should be appointed rural sub-registrar there.

(6) The case of Mogbul Ali, B.A., about the registration of a *kabin nama*, in the Madhavpur rural sub-registry office, proves the high-handedness and incompetence of these rural sub-registrars.

77. The same paper hears complaints against Babu Kunja Bihari Das, Additional Civil Court amin at Sylhet. It is expected that the new District Judge will watch his movements.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI
of the first fortnight
of Sravan 1303 (B.S)

The Additional Civil Court amin
at Sylhet.

78. The same paper contains the following English article :—

Jail Administration in Assam,
1895.

The Report on the Administration of Jails for the year 1895 is out, and we are glad to be able to observe that the Government of Assam has not failed to notice the unusual increase in convict mortality throughout the Province. The jails that are mainly responsible for this abnormal rate for the year under review are Sylhet, Gauhatty, Tezpur and Dibrugarh. But nowhere the death-rate was so high as in Sylhet, the number of death being 81.47 per mille, against 57 in Gauhatty and 75.40 in Tezpur. In 1893 the death-rate in Sylhet was only 27.11, and it takes one's breath away to see that it might increase three-fold in the course of a year or two. Such state of things cannot fail to shock the humane instincts of any Government, civilized or barbarous, and no wonder that the Government of Assam, after all, should characterize it as appalling.

Yes, it is appalling, and it has also no parallel in the history of Sylhet Jail. Add to this the number of deaths among the prisoners that are discharged before they have served out their full term of imprisonment. The death-rate would be still higher; and one cannot fail to be horrified at the idea of so many human lives being lost every year, owing to the carelessness or inefficiency of those entrusted to carry out the administration of our jails.

Under such circumstances it is the imperative duty of every Government to institute a thorough and searching enquiry into the causes that have led to such deplorable results, and we are afraid that the Government, though fully recognizing the state of things being sufficiently alarming, have not instituted that full inquiry which the circumstances disclosed in the report under review, surely call for. It has traced this high rate of mortality to want of proper supervision over prisoners employed in extra-mural labour.

It may be one of the causes or even the main cause, but we are not at all inclined to believe that it is the sole cause, as observed by the Chief Commissioner in his Resolution on the Jail Administration Report for the year under review.

In looking over page 32 of the Administration Report, we find the annual cost of rations per head is Rs. 25-3-11. This being so, the diet expense comes up to a little more than Rs. 2 a month, and we can safely assure the Government that not a single man can be pointed out, excepting, of course, the beggars in the street, who is able to manage his monthly diet expense with such a small sum of money. Add to this the fact that the jail employes,

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SRIHATTAVASI

assuming all of these to be a set of strictly honest fellows, cannot feel that personal interest in the management of diet expense which a poor man would feel in his own case; every adult prisoner consumes not less than half a maund of rice every month, and the average cost for this alone will come up to Rs. 2 a month, not to speak of other things, such as *dāl*, vegetables, spices, fuel, and the like. It is absurd to suppose that jail authorities will manage other peoples' business, with greater diligence than the people themselves. If the eating and drinking of forbidden food and water, and also exposure all through the rains are responsible for this abnormally high rate of mortality, the diet also had a large share in causing this work of destruction. The stringent rules about supervision of prisoners, when employed extra-murally, may minimize the evil complained of, but it would by no means eradicate it. We therefore beg to draw the attention of the Government to the diet question, and trust that it will not fail to be fully alive to its responsibilities in this direction. Again, we have to make one or two suggestions which will, we are sure, be effective means of grappling with the difficulties in question. Here, in Assam, we have no non-official visitor to inspect the condition of our prisoners from time to time. This is a system which obtains in every district in Bengal, and there is no reason why it should not be introduced here also. Our second suggestion is that Principal Medical Officers of the districts should not be made Superintendents of our jails. It is needless to enumerate the arguments in favour of this suggestion. They are too obvious to require any elucidation in our hands. In conclusion, we think we ought to remind our readers, as well as the general public, how the observation made by ourselves, some time ago, that "the majority of the prisoners looked haggard, and some of them thin almost to emaciation," has been borne out by the later events.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 22nd August 1896.